

“Nature Based Businesses, Restoration, and the Economy”

Beth Wheatley, Director of Government Relations, The Nature Conservancy

Kuni Chen, Director / NatureVest, The Nature Conservancy

435 Wilson St, Elkins, WV 26241

(304) 637-0160

ewheatley@tnc.org

kuni.chen@tnc.org

The Nature Conservancy (“TNC”) proposes to present on its work in Central Appalachia about potential uses and specific projects it is pursuing on abandoned mine lands. We desire a full 20-minute presentation slot. We will discuss why AML is an important regional conservation priority for TNC and what we have already done around mine lands in Central Appalachia. Specific projects we are pursuing in forest carbon, non-timber forest products, AMD restoration, and solar development will be reviewed by our State Chapters and NatureVest impact investment unit. We will also discuss our collaboration with other non-profit organizations to identify AML sites within high-priority conservation landscapes. Our Just Transition work to promote economic diversification will also be a highlight. Lastly, we will discuss our engagement with state regulators and government outreach to leverage our work on the ground.